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Department of State

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Action

Control: 13865

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FROM: USMLM Berlin

Rec'd: July 19, 1958
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Info

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: MLM 116, 191900Z July (Army Message)

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SENT CINCUSAREUR; REPEATED INFORMATION USCINCEUR DGU: ARMY SEVEN, USAMBASSADOR BONN, USNMR PARIS, DEPTAR CGUSCOB BERLIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEFENSE; CINCUSAREUR FO: G2 and CAD. SIGNED MCQUAIL.

1. Meeting with Colonel Sergeyev on request of Colonel McQuail was held at 1810, 19 July. Lt. Colonel Staiger and Lt. Vturin were also present.

2. Colonel McQuail opened meeting by stating that he had received word that there may be a repetition of a raid and attack on the US mission house in Potsdam. Expressing concern, Colonel McQuail asked Colonel Sergeyev what measures will be taken by the Soviets to insure that a repetition of the attack and violation of rights will not occur. After a pause Colonel Sergeyev answered, "I don't know of any such information. Your personal safety is insured. You know why it happened (demonstration) and I don't think it will reoccur." Colonel McQuail then stated that he was not concerned with the demonstration in front of the house, it was the violation of the extraterritoriality of the grounds and house, attacks on the officers and desecration of the flag. Colonel Sergeyev did not answer. Colonel McQuail then explained that he had five enlisted men and one officer and as their commander he is responsible for their safety. He then went on to state that it was demonstrated during the riot on the eighteenth that the existing security to prevent a violation of rights and persons guaranteed to mission members by the Huebner-Malinin agreement did not prove to be sufficient. He then asked Colonel Sergeyev what measures have been taken by the Soviets to provide better security. Colonel McQuail then asked Colonel Sergeyev point blank whether he

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had made a mistake on relying on the German police and leaving the US mission personnel unarmed. Colonel Sergeyev answered: "It is not necessary to take any other measures. Those measures of security which you have now are sufficient. Your worry and concern are unnecessary now. Our mission in Frankfurt is guarded by West German police, our personnel are also unarmed." Colonel McQuail then stated: "My understanding is that you are speaking for the commander in chief, group of Soviet forces in Germany, and that you are telling me that our personnel are safe from a repetition of what happened yesterday?" Colonel Sergeyev answered: "Yes sir." Colonel McQuail then asked Colonel Sergeyev in view of the fact that Colonel Sergeyev was at the Soviet headquarters today whether he had any information to pass on to Colonel McQuail. Colonel Sergeyev stated: "I informed them of your statements." At this point Colonel McQuail interjected the fact that his statements were a protest and that he is expecting a reply to them (see paragraph 3 MLM message 115). Colonel Sergeyev answered: "You understand that I cannot answer your protest as I have not received an answer from my headquarters." Colonel Sergeyev then started a discussion about the repairs to be made to the mission house and stated that a Soviet repair engineer officer will be at the mission house Monday to initiate repairs and requested that a US officer be present during time of inspection. Colonel McQuail agreed and added that a complete list of damages and losses would be forwarded to SERB.

3. Colonel Sergeyev at the conclusion of the meeting invited Colonel McQuail and members of the mission to attend a showing of the first part of the Soviet film, "Idiot". Colonel Sergeyev was obviously making an effort to maintain good relations between SERB and USMLM by extending the invitation and in his sending the Soviet engineer to the mission house to start repairs.

Meeting was ended at 1840 hours. Nothing follows.

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